

whether or not they have insurance, and, if so, how much. That is all. It then leaves it up to the parents to do what Jackie Boatwright would have done if only she had had this information, and that is to decide for themselves whether or not to leave their child with someone who wants to accept the responsibility for caring for your child, wants to take your money for doing so, but is unwilling and unable to accept any of the financial consequences for failing to fulfill this responsibility.

Indirectly, Mr. Speaker, this bill actually does more than that. By giving parents the information that they have a right to know, it places a powerful economic incentive on all day care centers to do what all of the responsible day care centers are already doing, and that is to assume the financial responsibility and to incorporate the costs of that into the cost of doing business that goes along with the moral responsibility to take care of the children in their care. Anyone who wants to do business without doing that will be at a competitive disadvantage compared to those who do.

This approach gives the invisible hand of self-interest the opportunity to do some good in the marketplace; the interests of day care centers to do the right thing or compete at a disadvantage compared to those who do, and the interests of parents in placing their children in day care centers that are ready, willing and able to do the right thing if and when they mess up.

We have truth in labeling; we have truth in lending and truth in advertising. This is truth in day care. The States have led the way, and now it is time for the Federal Government to follow their lead. The families that end up being harmed because they are kept in the dark deserve no less.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1473, to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to require child care providers to provide to parents information regarding whether such providers carry current liability insurance.

Working parents depend on child care so they can earn an income needed to support their families, as well as ensure that their children are well cared for in a safe environment while they are working. As such, child care is an integral part of the daily routine of millions of American families with young children. Research clearly shows us that the quality of child care has a lasting impact on a child's well-being and ability to learn.

Children in poor quality child care have been found to be delayed in language and reading skills and display more aggression toward other children and adults. School-age children's academic performance is enhanced by at-

tending formal child care programs of at least adequate quality, according to several studies.

The bill before us today does not reauthorize the Child Care and Development Block Grant. Rather, it amends current law to do several things. Most importantly, it requires each provider to openly post whether or not they have current liability insurance covering the operation of the child care business, and it requires each provider to supply parents with a written notice stating whether or not the provider carries liability insurance, including the amount of such coverage.

This legislation does not supersede any State regulations regarding facility licensure or insurance requirements. We as the Federal Government are simply asking providers to inform parents whether or not they hold liability insurance. While we have not utilized the normal process of committee consideration through hearings and markup of this legislation, we do support the purpose of this legislation in providing notification of insurance to parents. I hope to see the Child Care and Development Block Grant come before this committee for reauthorization during the 110th session of Congress. As we move forward reauthorizing this program, we must consider policy that makes way for learning environments to exist where children can obtain the cognitive skills or other skills needed for them to succeed socially and academically.

□ 1415

Federalizing child care is not the purpose of this bill, but rather properly and consistently informing parents of whether or not the child care center has liability insurance. In the future, we must ensure that Federal policy continues to provide States maximum flexibility in developing child care programs and policies as well as parental choice so the parents are able to decide the best-suited care for their children. I thank Representative BARROW for introducing this bill, and ask my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for his remarks in support of the bill, and I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA).

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1473, the Anthony DeJuan Boatwright Act. It is named in honor of Anthony DeJuan Boatwright who suffered a terrible tragedy at a licensed child care facility in Georgia.

In the wake of her son's accident, Anthony's mother, Jackie, has become a child care advocate who has worked tirelessly to help provide better information to parents navigating the child care system.

This important legislation is modeled after laws in the States of Georgia and Virginia. H.R. 1473 amends the

Child Care and Development Block Grant Program in order to help parents receive more information about potential child care providers. The Child Care and Development Block Grant is a very important Federal program providing almost \$5 billion to States to help low-income families afford child care.

Almost 2 million children receive child care subsidies through this child care program, and it has enabled millions of families to enter or remain in the workforce. H.R. 1473 strengthens the Child Care and Development Block Grant by adding a safety standard. H.R. 1473 requires licensed child care providers to give written notice to parents about whether or not they have liability insurance and requires child care providers to post publicly whether or not they have liability insurance.

H.R. 1473 also requires States to recommend to licensed child care providers that they carry liability insurance.

Child care quality can influence whether a child arrives at kindergarten ready to succeed. Providing parents with additional information about the child care providers in their communities will help parents make the right choice for their children and for their families.

I would like to thank my friend and colleague the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW) for bringing this legislation forward. In moving this bill forward, we can help other families avoid the terrible loss suffered by Anthony DeJuan Boatwright's family.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1473.

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1473, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 2007 AS "COUNTRY MUSIC MONTH"

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 58) expressing support for designation of the month of October 2007 as "Country Music Month" and to honor country music for its long history of supporting America's armed forces and its tremendous impact on national patriotism.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H. J. RES. 58

Whereas from the farms, ranches, and back roads of America comes a sound that is uniquely American; one that is about life and how that life should be lived;

Whereas country music is a story of family, faith, freedom, hard work, opportunity, pride, and patriotism;

Whereas country music embodies the spirit of America and the genuine feelings individuals experience throughout their lives such as joy and laughter, but also of sorrow and heartache;

Whereas country music has played an integral part in encouraging Americans to support its armed forces and their role in protecting American ideals, mainly during times of national conflict, through numerous popular patriotic songs;

Whereas the lyrics in these patriotic songs invoke sacrifice, responsibility, determination, freedom and liberty that were present during the nation's founding;

Whereas the lyrics in these patriotic songs talk about a calling to serve a higher duty, to come together with fellow citizens to defend and protect the freedoms we enjoy today given to us from those of past generations who paid the ultimate sacrifice;

Whereas country music songs seek to educate about America's history and teach listeners to learn from past lessons, to instill character and good citizenship;

Whereas country music has millions of fans in cities and towns all across the United States from all ages and walks of life; and

Whereas the Country Music Association celebrated its first National Country Music Month in 1964 and the month of October 2007 marks the 43rd annual observance of Country Music Month: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress—*

(1) supports the designation of a "Country Music Month";

(2) honors country music for its long history of supporting America's armed forces and its tremendous impact on national patriotism; and

(3) requests and authorizes the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may insert material relevant to H.J. Res. 58 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. HINOJOSA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the designation of October 2007 as "Country Music Month" and to celebrate the long heritage of patriotism in country music.

The Country Music Association celebrated its first National Country Music Month in 1964, and October 2007 marks

its 43rd annual observance. I would like to thank my fellow Texan, Congressman TED POE, for bringing this bill forward today.

The themes invoked in country music resonate with important American values such as responsibility, determination and hard work. Country songs foster an appreciation of the many important sacrifices made by our men and women serving in the Armed Forces. Songs like "Only in America" by Brooks and Dunn and "Where the Stars and Stripes and the Eagle Fly" by Aaron Tippin encourage patriotism and the pursuit of the American Dream.

In addition to powerful patriotic lyrics, the country music industry has also directly supported the cause of our Armed Forces. Portions of the proceeds from some patriotic compilations have gone to support the USO's active duty troops and families of fallen soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, I express my support for Country Music Month and congratulate the genre on its many contributions to American society. I urge my colleagues to pass the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 58, expressing support for the designation of the month of October as "Country Music Month" and to honor country music for its long history of supporting America's Armed Forces and its tremendous impact on national patriotism.

Country music is a blend of popular musical forms originally found in the southern region of the United States. I am proud to represent the birthplace of country music, Bristol, Tennessee. Country music has roots in traditional folk music, Celtic music, blues, gospel music, and old-time music and evolved rapidly in the 1920s.

Its sound and style has changed dramatically over the years. In the early years, country music was more of the honky-tonk sound from the likes of Ernest Tubbs and Hank Williams. In the 1930s and 1940s, another form of country music emerged, western country. These songs romanticized the life of the lonely, but heroic cowboy on the western frontier. Some of those famous for this western style were Gene Autry, America's singing cowboy, and Roy Rogers, who later teamed with wife Dale Evans to become the famous duo of the genre.

Country music morphed once again in the early 1950s with a sound that became known as rockabilly, a combination of rock and roll and hillbilly music. This sound was made popular by many performers who developed staying power in the country music industry. They include the Everly Brothers, Jerry Lee Lewis, and, of course, the king himself, Elvis Presley.

By the 1960s, country music found its home in Nashville, Tennessee. The

Nashville sound was born. This was most definitely the sound of country, but the sixties saw more steel guitars and drums in the Nashville sound. This era of country music was the beginning of the age of contemporary country music which ushered in today's most popular artists, Kenny Rogers, Dolly Parton, Garth Brooks, and Reba McEntire.

Today, country music is at its highest peak of popularity. As of 2007, country is the most popular radio format in America, reaching 77.3 million adults, almost 40 percent of the adult population, every week.

Country music is a story of family, faith, freedom, pride and patriotism. It embodies the American spirit and has played an integral part in encouraging Americans to support our Armed Forces. These songs invoke feelings of determination, liberty and responsibility, all of which this great country was founded upon.

In 1964, October was declared Country Music Month in honor of its rich history and tremendous impact on national patriotism. Country music is America's music, and for this reason I urge my colleagues to support H.J. Res. 58.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for yielding me this time, and I am delighted the member from Tennessee, the country music capital, is a cosponsor of this bill.

I also thank the majority and Mr. HINOJOSA for quickly getting this House resolution to the floor. I know there was some difficulty in doing it because of the timetable, but I appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, country music is definitely a sound that is uniquely American because it speaks to the heart and soul of everyday Americans. It is about the ups and downs of everyday life, as well as the struggles individuals have in this country, and the struggles our Nation confronts as a country. They are exemplified gloriously through the gifted songwriting of our country music artists.

At no time is this more true than when songs are written during trying times for our country and for the unwavering support of our men and women who wear the uniform who are willing to fight and even die, if necessary, for this Nation.

Toby Keith sang in "America Soldier" about our troops. He said, "Up and at 'em bright and early, I'm all business in my suit. I'm dressed for success from my head down to my boots. I don't do it for the glory, I just do it anyway, providing our future's my responsibility. I will always do my duty. No matter what the price. If

dying's asked of me, I'll bear that cross with an honor, 'cause freedom don't come free."

Through songs like Darrel Worley's "Have You Forgotten," and Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the U.S.A.," Alan Jackson's "Where Were You (When the World Stopped Turning)," Aaron Tippin's "Where the Stars and Stripes and the Eagle Fly," Brooks and Dunn's "Only in America," and Charlie Daniels' "This Ain't No Rag, It's a Flag," and Chely Wright's "Bumper of my SUV," the thoughts and emotions of everyday Americans rings out all across America through country music.

□ 1430

These musicians and their patriotic radio stations that air their songs of support for the military are to be commended for being on the front lines of encouragement to our remarkable, relentless troops.

Like many in this House, I've been to Iraq; but also many of our country music singers have gone overseas to Iraq and every other place where American troops are, at their own expense to show appreciation to our American military for their loyalty to the U.S.A.

It's fitting that we as a Congress take note of this and honor country music during the month of October. I urge adoption of the bill.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, country songs foster an appreciation of the many important sacrifices made by soldiers serving in the Armed Forces.

I want to share with our Members of the House that tomorrow, Tuesday, I will be accompanying Sergeant Daniel Pena from my congressional district, a young man 28 years old serving his third tour in Iraq. While on patrol, their Humvee stepped on a land mine that exploded. One of his colleagues riding in that Humvee was killed, and he lost his right arm and his right leg.

He came back to the United States where he has stayed in Walter Reed the last 2 months and received an artificial arm and leg and has now been released by Walter Reed Hospital. I'm going to accompany him and his father and mother to Weslaco, Texas, where he is going to receive a hero's welcome.

I'm pleased to tell you that I requested that country songs like "Only in America" by Brooks and Dunn and "Where the Stars and Stripes and the Eagle Fly" by Aaron Tippin be played as part of the patriotic music that we're going to have at that celebration of a hero's welcome.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield back my time.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, we have no other speakers on this resolution, and I yield back my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 58.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### CALLING ON CHINA TO RESPECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF REFUGEES FROM NORTH KOREA

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 234) calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to respect the human rights of refugees from North Korea.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

##### H. CON. RES. 234

Whereas the Government of North Korea is a dictatorial regime that commits gross human rights violations against the North Korean people;

Whereas the Government of North Korea attempts to exert absolute control over the lives of North Koreans through the use of deplorable systems of punishment and torture and by restricting the flow of information;

Whereas the Government of North Korea engages in the systematic torture, unlawful detainment, and mass murder of tens of thousands of political prisoners, defectors, and refugees, employing the world's most brutal concentration camp system;

Whereas the lack of freedom, government persecution, and policies of selective starvation have driven hundreds of thousands of North Koreans to northeast China, fleeing for their lives from prison camps or political persecution;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China forcibly repatriates North Korean refugees and imprisons foreign aid workers who try to assist North Korean refugees inside China;

Whereas to encourage these repatriation efforts, Chinese central government authorities assign local public security bureaus in northeastern China a target number of North Koreans that they must detain in order to receive favorable work evaluations;

Whereas the refugees returned to North Korea by the Government of the People's Republic of China face imprisonment, brutal persecution, or execution;

Whereas up to 90 percent of North Korean women refugees fall prey to traffickers in China who sell the refugees into sexual slavery;

Whereas the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, done at Geneva on July 28, 1951 (189 UNTS 150), as modified by the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, done at New York on January 31, 1967 (606 UNTS 267), defines a refugee as a person who, "owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country";

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China violates its obligations under the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees by impeding access to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and continually classifying North Korean refugees as "economic migrants", denying them asylum and forcibly returning them to North Korea without the review to which they are entitled;

Whereas the UNHCR fails to robustly press the Government of the People's Republic of China to grant the UNHCR access to North Korean refugees and has failed to initiate a binding arbitration proceeding against the Government of the People's Republic of China pursuant to the terms of Article XIV of the Agreement on Upgrading of the UNHCR Mission in the People's Republic of China to the UNHCR Branch Office in the People's Republic of China, done at Geneva on December 1, 1995, governing refugee access and the refugee designation process;

Whereas the UNHCR's failure to bring such an arbitration proceeding was determined by the United States Congress in the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-333; 22 U.S.C. 7801 et seq.) to constitute a "a significant abdication by the UNHCR of one of its core responsibilities";

Whereas the failure of the People's Republic of China to abide by its treaty obligations toward the United Nations is a critical means by which the Government of North Korea is allowed to subject the people of North Korea to persecution and effectively imprison them within its borders;

Whereas Special Envoy for Human Rights in North Korea Jay Lefkowitz testified before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment on March 1, 2007, that "the fact that the Government of China is not honoring its international commitments, is not providing genuine access as it is required to the U.N. High Commissioner on Human Rights, I think is really the single most significant issue we have outside of the North Korean Government's own emigration policies that is a barrier now to the free movement of people in that region";

Whereas the International Parliamentarians Coalition for North Korean Refugees' Human Rights, a coalition of parliamentarians from across the globe, met in Seoul, South Korea, on August 29, 2007, and called on the international community to increase its efforts to protect North Korean refugees; and

Whereas the Korean-American community, acting through various religious and civic organizations, including the "Let My People Go Campaign", has worked to bring awareness to the plight of the hundreds of thousands North Korean refugees living in China: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—*

(1) strongly encourages the Government of the People's Republic of China to honor its obligations under the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, done at Geneva on July 28, 1951 (189 UNTS 150), as modified by the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, done at New York on January 31, 1967 (606 UNTS 267), by—

(A) halting the forced repatriation of North Koreans who face a well-founded fear of persecution if they are returned to North Korea;

(B) making genuine efforts to identify and protect the refugees among the North Korean migrants encountered by Chinese authorities, including providing refugees with a reasonable opportunity to request asylum; and